

**[NOTE by MLPAI Staff: Tommy Gomes's answers to the nomination questions are in two emails, which are complementary and are both included here.] [MCH]**

**From:** Tommy Gomes

**Sent:** Thursday, July 10, 2008 11:27 AM

**To:** MLPA temp

**Subject:** RE: MLPA: Nomination to South Coast Stakeholder Group

Max,

Nice talking to ya, and thanks for the input. Here we go.

1. Able to bring first-hand knowledge and perspective to bear on the marine resources of the MLPA South Coast Study Region, I bring to the table over 35 years of commercial and sportfishing knowledge.
2. Able to balance a south coast regional perspective with localized knowledge, I was the 1st to fish the SPOT PRAWN off California coastline. I have also fished all over the world
3. Willing to express fundamental interests (as opposed to fixed positions) and to clearly convey the interests of one or more stakeholder groups, I'm willing to work with other groups in order to do the right thing here and help in saving our coastline. I understand better than most that some will lose a finger, some will lose 2, some will lose a hand however very few will lose an arm over this MLPA.
4. Capable of working collaboratively, seeking to integrate the interests of the full range of constituencies, Although I have no college degree, I have spent over 35 years working on fishing boats
5. Able to access and use an effective communication network to reach stakeholders not attending the public meetings, and  
YES
6. Committed to completing all aspects of the charge of the regional stakeholder group.  
YES

**From:** Tommy Gomes  
**Sent:** Friday, July 11, 2008 7:52 AM  
**To:** MLPAComments  
**Subject:** MLPA STAKEHOLDERS

Good day,

My name is Thomas e. Gomes, I would like to toss my hat in the ring for this stakeholders MLPA.

My family came to San Diego in 1892 and help with the starting of the AMERICAN TUNA FLEET, I have worked and fished all over the world and have been involved in many joint ventures between the United States and other countries, from Japan to Korea and South Africa. At age 18 I was the youngest American tuna boat captain in the San Diego fleet, I have also worked sport fishing vessel out of San Diego.

I'm the inventor and owner of UNIGOOP, which is made from the by-products of sea urchin after the processing for uni. I have also invented uni-butter which is used in recreational sport fishing. Both products are for sale in California tackle stores up and down the coast of California.

In the late 70s I fished in Alaska and watched the Russian Vessels take our Salmon, and remember the fight we had on our hands beck then. I was involved with the porpoise program here in the states with the American Tuna fleet, and I have over 10,500 personal saves in the purse seine net regarding porpoise. I was also involved with the Japan/Korea shut down of the HIGH SEAS DRIFT NET fleets in the 80s.

In the 80s I was also involved with the start-up program of California Spot prawns here off our coast.

I sit on the Board of Directors for the San Diego Freedom Ranch which is a drug and alcohol rehab center for men. It is a 120 day in house program, in campo calif.

I understand just what is needed at a time like this, I also understand that one must be able to play well with others in the sand Box so to speak.

Thanks for your time on this matter.....

Thomas E. Gomes (Tommy)  
Owner UNIGOOP Bait